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LETTER DATED 16 FEBRUARY 1999 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF GERMANY TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

I have the honour to bring to your attention the statement on the conflict between Eritrea and Ethiopia issued by the Presidency of the European Union on 11 February 1999 (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the text of this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Dieter KASTRUP
Permanent Representative of Germany
to the United Nations

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Annex

[Original: English and French]

Statement on the conflict between Eritrea and Ethiopia issued in Brussels on 11 February 1999 by the Presidency of the European Union

It is with dismay and the utmost disappointment that the European Union has noted the recent outbreak of open war between Ethiopia and Eritrea. The tireless efforts of the international community, in particular of the Organization of African Unity (OAU), have thus been frustrated.

The European Union vehemently condemns the use of force by the two countries and urges them to respect the airstrike moratorium to which both sides have committed themselves.

The European Union expresses its strong support for Security Council resolution 1227 (1999), in particular the call for all States to end immediately all sales of arms and munitions to Ethiopia and Eritrea. It calls upon both parties to the conflict to halt the conflagration immediately. It is imperative that further loss of human life and material destruction be prevented, in particular that the safety of the civilian population be assured, and that the path to a negotiated settlement of the conflict be reopened.

As a first step, the two sides are called upon to agree unilaterally to a cessation of hostilities.

The European Union commends the work of OAU and encourages the OAU Heads of State and Secretary-General to make every effort to bring about an immediate and unconditional ceasefire and to resume their mediation process, and it continues to support these efforts.

The European Union stands ready to provide assistance and to dispatch for this purpose a special Troika mission in order to promote a rapid solution to the conflict on the basis of the OAU framework agreement proposals.